

GENERAL STRIKE ALMOST CERTAIN

Vote of 90,000 Garment Workers
Is Unanimously for
Walkout.

FINAL MEETINGS TO-DAY

Samuel Gompers Already in City
and Giving Movement
His Support.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
New York, December 28.—It appeared to-night that a general strike was almost certain for the more than 90,000 garment workers in this city and surrounding towns next week. The vote of the workers was unanimously for a walk out and the final details will be mapped out at meetings in a score of halls tomorrow and Monday night. It was believed certain to-night that the strike would go into effect at 7 o'clock on Monday morning.

So serious do the clothing manufacturers consider the situation that they have already hired many replacement workers in outside cities, and it was reported to-night that a great number of these are hidden in various cities within a few hours' journey, ready to be brought here at a moment's notice in an attempt to break the strike.

In addition, the Manufacturers' Association has notified the police department that it will demand protection for all employees. In paid advertisements it says a majority of its employees have no grievances, and that if they are afforded protection from their employers they will remain at work. This latter contention was this evening indignantly denied by the officials of the union.

The strike will have the indorsement and support of the American Federation of Labor. President Samuel Gompers is already in the city and has assured the leaders of the contemplated walkout that he will do everything in his power to make the strike a success.

Officials of the State Department of labor were trying to effect a settlement with the possibility of success. The officials of the manufacturers assert they will run their business on the open shop plan, and under no circumstances will they recognize the union.

This is the one demand that the union leaders say they will insist in its entirety, and because of this hope of a settlement were small.

The city and surrounding territory is to be divided up into zones and a concerted attempt made to get every garment worker out and to keep the shops idle. The strikers want a graduated wage increase and reforms in working conditions. It is claimed that the majority of the factories are literally fire traps, that the sanitary arrangements are inhuman, and that as a result the death rate in the business is very high.

Eckman's Alternative
Highly Praised

A Valuable Remedy for Throat and Lungs.

It is fully to be believed that Consumption differs from every other disease in not requiring the use of any medicine for its treatment. For a number of years an enormous mass of voluntary and thankful testimonials from persons who consider that they owe their lives to Eckman's Alternative, a medicine for Tuberculosis, has been accumulating. Surely plenty of time to demonstrate its lasting value. You can write to any of them. Here is one:

325 Girard Ave., Phila., Pa.
"Gentlemen: The doctor I consulted for a case of Grippe, followed by Pneumonia and later by Consumption, I grew steadily worse. In the winter of 1904 I had a cough, night sweats, fever and raised quantities of awful-looking stuff and later I had many hemorrhages, at one time three in three consecutive days. Milk and eggs became repulsive; I could keep nothing down. Three physicians treated me. I was ordered to the mountains, but did not go. Eckman's Alternative was recommended by a friend. After taking a small quantity I had the first quiet night's sleep for weeks. My improvement was marked from the first. I gained strength and weight and appetite. I never had another hemorrhage and my cough gradually lessened until entirely gone. I am perfectly well. Everything I say here can be verified by my family and friends."
(Signed) EDWIN F. LEIGHMAN.
Eckman's Alternative is effective in Bronchitis, Asthma, Hay Fever, Throat and Lung troubles, and in upbuilding the system. Does not contain poisons, opiates or habit-forming drugs. For sale by Owens & Minor Drug Company and other leading druggists. Ask for booklet telling of recovery, and write to Eckman Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa., for additional evidence.—Advertisement.

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PORT RICHMOND

Offers the best chance for you to double your money quickly by investing in real estate.

LITTLE FRUIT FARMS
BIG MONEY MAKERS.

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Let us be your prescription druggist. Purity and accuracy guaranteed.

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107 E. BROAD STREET

MILLINERY—Women's and Misses' Outer Apparel.

The Velvet Hand

Same Quality Every Day. PURITY ICE CREAM. Monroe 1861.

Hopkins Furniture Co.

7 West Broad St. Cash or Credit.

MME. BLOCH, FREE, ANSWERS CRITICS

Acquitted of Murder, Replies to Those Who Condemn Her.

DOES NOT SEEK TO JUSTIFY ACT

Maddened by Fact That Husband Had Been Stolen Away From Her, She Yielded to Primordial Passion and Fired Shot Which Killed Her Rival.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)
Paris, December 28.—Madame Bloch, the writer under the pseudonym of "Frederic de Beaulieu," who has just been acquitted of the charge of murdering Mrs. Bridgeman, who she alleged, had won her husband's affection, returned after she had been accorded her liberty to M. Bloch and her family. She refused to see any reporters and devoted herself to nursing her mother, who is ill. Mme. Bloch, however, consented to see your correspondent and to write a reply to the various French women writers on her act. These women stood six to two against her. A symposium was started by Le Mirror to find out if literary women like Mme. Bloch supported her act of killing her rival. These women gave their opinions freely on crimes of passion. Two of them, Madame Marie de Boyet and Madame Aurel, said that Mme. Bloch was right in killing her rival. The six women who sided against them were Madame Lescaur, Laurende, Meudres, Rachilde, De Saint-Point and Madame Cortis. The latter said:

"I cannot understand love that has no dignity, love that thrusts itself upon and clings to its object, nor this extraordinary idea of longing to keep a man who flees from you, even if scandal, force and murder are necessary to hold him."

Mme. Bloch's Reply.
In her reply, Mme. Bloch says: "During my imprisonment The Times-Dispatch published the opinions of certain fellow-women writers of mine, each judging and commenting according to her nature on my act of madness, which I shall expiate in remorse all my life."

"It is far from my thoughts to wish to try to justify my act. My mad action cannot be justified, but I should like to excuse it and above all to proclaim that neither literature nor art nor even the sciences free the human heart from the passions and griefs which assail it when it feels that the sole object of its love, the one aim of its life is being torn away without hope of return. One of my confidantes says she has the most profound contempt for any being who argues unconsciousness as an explanation for the consequences of her acts."

"To her I reply that I was prepared to expiate my crime. I acted unconsciously, it is true, but when alone in prison, with the help of time, I realized the extent of the misfortune I had caused, and men's justice would have found me ready to bow before it."

"To her who writes: 'Whoever kills ought to be killed,' I reply by asking what of my life that had broken, my heart which has been destroyed, the suffering and tears of children robbed of a father, my vain supplication and humiliation—what retaliation should be applied to her who thus killed me in inches and my children?"

"Any one truly literary would have shed in the air, says my last critic, with an attempt at humor. Yes, perhaps, if in accomplishing my act I had thought of literature. I would have died in the air. Alas! I repeat, I was at that moment a simple woman, a poor creature neither literary nor artistic. I was a mourning mother, quivering with despair and defending her own children's happiness and life."

Wants Whole Truth Known.
Mme. Bloch, who shows no outward sign of what she has undergone, told your correspondent that she is determined that the whole truth shall eventually be made known. She says that much still remains to be told, but at present she is not willing to discuss the matter. She hopes to be able to postpone her play, which has already been accepted, but she fears this will be impossible, as she is only a part author. Her deafness is extreme.

Public interest in the case, however, has moved from Mme. Bloch to a discussion of the advocate-general's declaration that the accused woman ought to have found a victim at her side. She had struck her husband, the court could only have bowed before the act. Such words from a man representing the law, public prosecution, justice and morality, have induced the newspapers to say that hereafter a revolver will find a place among a bride's wedding presents.

The judge also said he would admit, as many others do, that "whoever suffers from jealousy tries to expiate the evil by killing whoever causes it." These two declarations show how the times have changed since Dumas, the younger, advised the right of a husband to kill an unfaithful wife. His maxims are now advocating the same doctrine as the novelist did.

Countess-Burker.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Natural Bridge, Va., December 28.—Natural Bridge Baptist Church was the scene of a beautiful wedding Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Eugene Hays Cummins, of Cincinnati, and Miss Gladys Ruth Burger, the youngest daughter of Mrs. L. R. Burger, were married.

Miss Lela Kneels, of Knoxville, rendered the wedding march. The groomsmen were Dave Stoner and Lucy Cummins; the bridesmaids, Mesas Hannah Elizabeth Ruff and Rose Cummins, and Emily Burger, maid of honor.

The groom, with the best man, H. H. Brown, of Lynchburg, entered by the right aisle, while the bride, with the arm of her brother, entered by the left aisle. The bride was given away by her brother, K. P. Burger. The Rev. J. H. Couch, the pastor, performed the ceremony. During the ceremony, the ushers played softly "Perfect Day."

The ushers were Lucy Cummins and Dave Stoner.

Immediately after the ceremony the bride and groom were driven to the Norfolk and Western station, and left on train No. 14 for Washington and other points North. They will be "at home" to their friends after January 1. The groom is a young business man of Crimora.



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\$350 Piano Right in
Your Own Home For
\$257.50**

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Stool and Scarf Included.

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Think it over! Talk it over with your family! But make up your mind to purchase quickly, as only a limited number of instruments will be sold at these terms and prices!

Exchange Your Silent Piano for One of These Incomparable

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And your musical happiness will be complete for every member of the family can then play the music that most appeals to them as divinely as the most gifted pianist.

Chickering, Henry & S. G. Lindeman, Fischer, Crafts, Ludlow, Holmes & Son, Kingsley.

No matter how difficult the music, these player-pianos bring it forth with all the power, expression and time exactitude of trained fingers. Purchase of a player-piano here entitles you to the privileges of our music roll library of thousands of rolls of the latest and best in music. Take out a number of rolls and exchange them as often as you please—no additional cost to our customers. Ask for full particulars.

VICTROLAS

\$15 to \$200

No initial payment down—just pay for records selected.

Never so easy to own a Victrola—get one now and enjoy the performances of the world's greatest bands and orchestras, operatic and vaudeville stars, musicians and minstrels. No other entertainment in the world can compare with that afforded by the Victor-Victrola.

Our Richmond Store Will Be Closed January 1st and 2d
On account of taking inventory.

Rebuilt Used Pianos

Must reduce stock before inventory. Only a few days left to do it. Better than ordinary values at extraordinarily low prices is our method of accomplishing it. To prove we mean what we say, here are a few specimen offerings:

Steinway (old style), No. 40663, rosewood case, fine tone, \$110. Haines Bros., (old style), rosewood case, No. 9040, \$115. Chickering, (old style), rosewood case, No. 11906, \$125. Steinway (old style), rosewood case, No. 57056, \$150. Steinway (old style), rosewood case, No. 2388, \$90. Cable (modern style), walnut case, No. 20563, \$178. Remington (modern style), mahogany case, No. 72,127, \$169. Ludlow (modern style), mahogany case, No. 55453, \$198.

Stool and Scarf Included With Each Piano.

Many other exceptional values. No big initial payments; just enough to pay for hauling—little, easy, never-missed payments can begin later. Send for description and full particulars.

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Largest Retailers of Victor Goods in the South.

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PRESIDENT FACES STRENUOUS WEEK

Much Work and Many Social Affairs Await His Return From Panama.

Washington, December 28.—Facing one of the most strenuous weeks in his career, President Taft will arrive in Key West, Fla., Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, after his flying Sunday trip to the Panama Canal Zone.

Disembarking from the battleship Arkansas, which will immediately host anchor and sail for Cuba, the President will catch a train for Washington, arriving here Tuesday afternoon, probably making one or more short addresses on his way home.

On New Year's Day the President will hold his annual reception, a time-honored institution, to which all the world is bidden. Thursday he probably will spend trying to catch up with routine matters that have piled up during his absence, and in putting the finishing touches on his budget message, to be sent to Congress immediately after it convenes on January 2.

Friday night the President will hold his diplomatic reception, the most brilliant social event of the year, at the White House, catching the midnight train, to New York immediately after it is concluded, where the next afternoon he will attend the funeral services for the late White Star Red American ambassador to Great Britain, and at midnight will be the guest of honor at the big Republican dinner, where he will make his last important address as President.

This address, in which, it is said, the President will fully outline his policies, which he believes will save the Republican party from dissolution, he has been preparing en route to and from Panama. It will be his last official utterance as titular leader of the "G. O. P.," and will be delivered before 1,500 Republican leaders, gathered from all parts of the country.

Mrs. Laura M. Gresham.
Fredericksburg, Va., December 28.—Mrs. Laura M. Gresham, widow of Dr. Henry Gresham, died at her home in Tappahannock a few days ago, after a lingering illness, aged seventy-seven years. She was the sister of the late Aubrey H. Jones, and is survived by one son and five daughters.

Miss Ada Phillips.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Fredericksburg, Va., December 28.—Miss Ada Phillips of Spotsylvania County, died at her home near Summit, from the effects of a stroke of paralysis, aged sixty-three years. She is survived by one sister.

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